

ONE MAN'S OPINIONS

BY N. D. COCHRAN

The Trial of Priest Mullen.—I have a letter which, with my answer to it, will serve to illustrate a point. Here is the letter:

Dear Mr. Cochran—I am now and have been a reader of The Day Book for over two years and I have not missed buying a copy over six times in all this time. I have done more. I have never missed an opportunity to boost The Day Book to friends and lodge fellows.

Now, Mr. Cochran, there is just one question I wish to ask and that is: Why is it that you are not reporting the progress of one of the most important murder trials that has occurred in Chicago for years? Are you afraid of the Roman Catholic boycott?

The Protestant people throughout the state of Illinois are very well aware of the fact that the other daily papers here in the city of Chicago are Romanized. They, therefore, never expect to find any kind of news that would look bad for the priesthood in them. But those free thinking men and women who want the news, no matter who it happens to hit, have been looking to The Day Book in order to get it.

There are perhaps fifty or a hundred thousand people here in the state of Illinois who have long since refused to allow any of Chicago's so-called daily papers to come into their homes simply because they are cowardly and one-sided and very unfair to Protestants and other denominations outside of the Roman Catholic church.

Mr. Cochran, I am not prejudiced against any religious or political party, but I do say that when any church or political party is compelled to buy up the press in order to stifle news regarding them there must certainly be something rotten within that church or political organization.

Now I hope, Mr. Cochran, that you

will not allow free-thinking readers of The Day Book to become suspicious of it, but keep right on publishing facts as you find them, and if it hits preacher, rabbi or priest print it anyway. Don't show partiality in the columns of The Day Book, but keep it as it has been, the people's newspaper and free press.

Wishing you and The Day Book many years of freedom and prosperity.—Ivan Salstrom.

Answer.—Here is the whole truth about why The Day Book hasn't carried sensational reports of the trial of Priest Mullen: It hasn't been the practice of The Day Book to publish reports of murder trials. I seldom read them myself and haven't tried to make The Day Book sensational in that manner. I didn't pay any attention to the trial. Nobody asked me or anybody on The Day Book staff to suppress the story or to print it. Nobody said anything at all, orally or by letter, until the above letter was received. Nobody here had any fear of any boycott, Catholic or otherwise. I don't believe Catholics would boycott any newspaper for printing the story of the Mullen trial, whether that newspaper was in the habit of reporting murder trials or not. I wasn't afraid to publish the story of the trial. Neither was I afraid to treat Priest Mullen exactly as I have treated all other murderers and pay little attention to his trial. To have singled this murderer out for publicity just because he happened to be a Catholic priest would have been partiality instead of impartiality—because it would have been treating him differently than others. Mullen didn't commit murder because he was a priest, but probably for the same reason that other men out of their right mind have committed murder—because he was either drunk or insane. He is entitled to no more or no less consideration than other men because of his calling. Preacher, rabbi and priest all look alike to me as to their call-